United Nations A/C.5/72/13

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 November 2017

Original: English

Seventy-second session
Fifth Committee
Agenda items 136 and 72 (c)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.48

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Introduction

1. At its 47th meeting, on 16 November 2017, the Third Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.48 by a recorded vote of 135 to 10, with 26 abstentions. A statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution was before the Committee (A/C.3/72/L.69).

II. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.48, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions relating to Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders and including the concerns addressed in the resolution, and in this regard to appoint a special envoy on Myanmar and to offer assistance to the Government of Myanmar.

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III. Relationship of the proposed request to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018–2019 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

3. The activities referred to in the draft resolution relate to programme 2, Political affairs, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018–2019 and section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

IV. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

4. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.48, the Secretary-General would appoint a special envoy on Myanmar, who would carry out work related to the good offices of the Secretary-General. Accordingly, it is assumed that the Office of the Special Envoy would be a special political mission under special and personal envoys, advisers and representatives of the Secretary-General.

5. The Special Envoy on Myanmar would be based in the capital of a Member State in the region. He or she would be supported by a small team that would be based in the region as well as at United Nations Headquarters.

6. The Office of the Special Envoy would work with a wide range of actors, including the Government of Myanmar, to provide the Secretary-General's good offices and encourage progress on the situation. In particular, the Special Envoy would encourage the authorities in Myanmar to take action in three key areas: ending the military operations; allowing unfettered access for humanitarian support; and ensuring the safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return of the refugees to their areas of origin.

7. In the immediate term, the Office of the Special Envoy would work to assist the authorities in Myanmar and Bangladesh in agreeing on a framework for the repatriation of those who have fled the violence, in accordance with international standards.

8. In a medium- to long-term perspective, the Office of the Special Envoy would work to promote social cohesion and an end to discrimination against the Rohingya. In that context, in line with the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, the Special Envoy would undertake efforts to ensure that the various dimensions of the human rights of the Rohingya community are fully respected and that issues relating to citizenship, identity documents, work permits and birth registration are adequately addressed. The Special Envoy would support and advocate the scaling-up of development projects in Rakhine. In that regard, the work of the newly established Union Enterprise Mechanism for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine and the Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development in Rakhine to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State would be closely followed.

9. In carrying out its mandate, the Office of the Special Envoy would work in partnership with a wide range of actors, both partners within the United Nations system and external partners. The Special Envoy would also work closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on discussions related to a framework for the repatriation of refugees who have fled the violence, in accordance with international standards. In addition, the Special Envoy would

work closely with the United Nations country team in Myanmar across a range of activities that may relate to his or her mandate. The Special Envoy would also maintain regular and close contact with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as well as other Member States in the region. In that regard, the presence of the Special Envoy in the region would facilitate regular interactions with regional organizations as well as bilateral contacts with Member States.

10. The objective, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement, and performance measures for the Office of the Special Envoy are set out below.

Table 1
Objective, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures

Objective of the Organization: To advance the national reconciliation and democratization process in Myanmar			
		Performance measures	
Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*		*2018*
(a) Progress towards humanitarian access	Sustained full humanitarian access to affected areas of Myanmar	Target	Improved humanitarian access to all the affected districts
(b) Progress in the democratic transition process	Consolidation of democratic institutions	Target	Number of inclusive dialogues among the nation's political stakeholders
(c) Progress towards returns from Bangladesh	Safe and voluntary return	Target	Initiation of return process

External factors

11. The objective and expected accomplishments of the Office of the Special Envoy would be achieved on the assumption that there would be cooperation and commitment on the part of the Government of Myanmar to take steps to address the situation relating to the Rohingya community.

V. Estimated resource requirements

12. Pursuant to the request contained in paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.48, it is estimated that additional requirements in the amount of $1,541,100 would arise for 2018 in the biennium 2018–2019 under section 3, Political affairs, which would cover the costs of: (a) the establishment of seven positions (1 Under-Secretary-General, 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 2 P-4 and 1 Local level); and (b) other operational expenses.

13. Of the seven positions outlined above, one position (1 Under-Secretary-General) would be home-based, four positions (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 Local level) would be based in the capital of a Member State in the region, and two positions (1 P-5 and 1 P-4) would be based in New York. Other substantive and administrative support would be provided to the Special Envoy and his or her Office by the Department of Political Affairs.

14. In order to allow him or her to have close links with the authorities in Myanmar, regional organizations and Member States in the region, the Special Envoy would be appointed at the Under-Secretary-General level, on a when-actually-employed basis. A Director at the D-1 level would serve as a deputy and represent the Special Envoy at high-level meetings in Yangon and outside the country. A Senior Political Affairs Officer at the P-5 level would be responsible for ensuring close cooperation between the Office of the Special Envoy, the United

Nations country team in Myanmar and other United Nations entities. A Political Affairs Officer at the P-4 level would be responsible for preparing regular political updates, monitoring and reporting on the situation on the ground, and preparing a wide range of material for the Special Envoy. In addition, an Administrative Assistant at the Local level would provide administrative support to the Office.

15. Given the need to support United Nations system-wide coordination in Myanmar and to maintain close links to the General Assembly and Member States in New York, the Office of the Special Envoy would maintain a second location at United Nations Headquarters, staffed by a Senior Political Affairs Officer at the P-5 level and a Political Affairs Officer at the P-4 level.

16. Operational requirements include official travel, facilities and infrastructure, ground transportation, communications, information technology and other supplies, services and equipment.

17. The details regarding these additional resource requirements for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018 are set out in the table below.

Table 2

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Resource requirements
Section 3, Political affairs	
Other staff costs	1 069.2
Consultants	36.8
Official travel	162.5
General operating expenses	143.9
Contractual services	16.1
Supplies and materials	2.6
Furniture and equipment	110.0
Subtotal	**1 541.1**
Total	**1 541.1**

18. Taking into account the good offices role of the Office of the Special Envoy, the Secretary-General proposes that the requirements for 2019 be considered in the context of future budgets of special political missions.

VI. Summary

19. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.48, resource requirements amounting to $1,541,100 net of staff assessment would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018 for the Office of the Special Envoy on Myanmar.**

20. The Secretary-General proposes that the resources for 2018 for the Office of the Special Envoy on Myanmar be charged against the provision for special political missions in the amount of $1,109,612,900 included under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2018–2019.

21. The Secretary-General also proposes that the requirements for 2019 be considered in the context of future budgets of special political missions.